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TEG 131-69
24 April 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Advanced Graphics Contract

REFERENCE: NPIC/TSSG/DED-1592-69, dated 22 April 1969

1. I reluctantly concurred with the referenced proposal to negotiate a contract with [] to demonstrate the utilization of the [] Graphics Terminal for advanced graphics system.

2. Computer graphics is the "in thing". As a result and because there might be some payoff for NPIC, I believe we should be far more involved than we are today.

3. Previous studies, including inhouse working level assessments and the IIS concept papers, have shown that computerized graphics will probably not be cost effective. Rapid progress is being made in this field, however, and it may well be that the cost of hardware and software is dropping sufficiently to make the techniques more attractive. For this reason and because I believe we in NPIC should know at first hand more about the potential for computer-aided graphics that I believe we should be spending some contract money in this field.

4. The proposed contract, however, puts the cart before the horse. It is to demonstrate graphics manipulation and text editing techniques that are known to be well within the state-of-the art. The specific applications of these techniques will be tailored slightly to accommodate potential NPIC applications. The end products to be delivered will be programs of marginal or no value to NPIC itself. The demonstrations that state-of-the art techniques may be applied to NPIC type problems will be little more than a sales pitch. The eight items to be studies under Task 6 will either confirm that feasible things are feasible or be irrelevant:

Declass Review by
NIMA/DOD

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GROUP 1
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- a. Interface with the UNIVAC 494 -- strictly an engineering problem.
 - b. Interface with the PHOTON -- another engineering problem, if we know what we want to do. A more useful action would be to contract for a program to operate the PHOTON on-line from the 494 computer. This would lead to a major improvement in report production - immediates as well as basics.
 - c. Feasibility of doing lens design with computer graphics -- irrelevant and a topic for which [] has no competence. 25X1
 - d. Design of a head set -- strictly an engineering and human factors problem of no use unless we need it.
 - e. Using precision devices for analog input -- this has real potential application for NPIC.
 - f. Capabilities of alternate storage devices -- hardware engineering and salesmanship.
 - g. Methods of performing photo analysis -- might possibly generate some fresh ideas.
 - h. Performance of editing function -- extensive research has been undertaken, some of it funded by the Agency.
5. The first problem that needs to be answered is how can computerized graphics be applied to improve the NPIC production processes? This is a system analysis study and one which probably should not be done by a hardware manufacturer who has a vested interest in the outcome.
6. Possible alternatives which might be implemented before the end of the fiscal year include:
- a. Additional tasking under the [] contract -- [] was a pioneer in the development of computer-aided graphics for use in aerospace vehicle design. 25X1

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b. Add-on or reactivation of Agency contracts with   for advanced computerized text editing programs that can significantly improve our reporting system.

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Chief, Imagery Exploitation Group

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